UNSTARRED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Distribution of rice.

4. **MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether in the various rationed areas of the State the one fourth or one-half of a *nazhi* of rice distributed per head per day was insufficient for their existence; and

(*b*) whether each individual had to resort to black market rice to satisfy the requirements every day?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: Card rationing has been introduced in Municipal areas only, from 1st Edavom 1118 M. E. The effect of the rationing system introduced is being watched.

Price of rice in the neighbouring districts.

5. **MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR:** Will the Government be pleased to state the rate of price of rice per sack in the neighbouring districts of Tinnevelly, Madura, Coimbatore, etc., where there is no control of rice?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR; Information is not available; there is no fixed price in the districts referred to.

Prohibition of transport of rice.

6. **MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the people of Travancore State feel very much aggrieved particularly due to the prohibition of transport of paddy and rice from taluk to taluk and division to division without the permit from Government authorities; and

(*b*) whether this has given rise to corruption and bribery among lower officers of the Departments of Police, Excise and Revenue?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) and (*b*) Government are not aware of any such grievance. Specific instances of corruption when brought to notice are suitably dealt with.

Collection of paddy from cultivators.

7. **MR. K. KUNJU PANICKAR:** Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the rate of forty paras of paddy per acre taken from the owners and cultivators of more than five acres of paddy land and fifty paras per acre taken from the owners and cultivators possessing more than ten acres of paddy land, is considered to be a disproportionately higher rate than that can be afforded by them; and

(*b*) whether this standard, if strictly enforced, will not adversely affect the next cultivation of the paddy lands?

MR. K. R. NARAYANA AIYAR: (*a*) In a few cases, it may be so.

(*b*) Yes, in a few cases. But it is not strictly enforced wherever the same prejudices the next cultivation.

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